employees of electricity department in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Western Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against such employees/officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). The supply and distribution of power within the State is done by the State Electricity Boards. The Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board, has reported that they have no knowledge of any factories/industries being run with illegal power in connivance with the departmental employees. The State Electricity Board can initiate action under the provisions of the act for theft of electricity and illegal power connection given in connivance of the employees of Electricity Board, if such cases are reported to the Board.

Oil Exploration

30. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the oil exploration and development blocks awarded by the Government to small and medium companies are being sold by them at a premium;

(b) if so, the number of cases in which the oil exploration and development blocks have been resold by the allottee companies;

(c) the considerations which weighted with the Government to award the oil exploration and development blocks to these companies and the conditions, if any, on which contracts were awarded; and

(d) what action has been taken by the Government for the re-sale of awarded oil exploration and development blocks by these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b). Government is not aware of such selling by companies. However, the contracts provide for assignment or transfer of a part of all of its participating interest by companies with approval of Government. In the case of KG-OS-90/-1 block such re-assignment/ transfer has been allowed by Government.

(c) The reasons for offering the oil Exploration blocks and discovered oil & gas fields for private participation include :-

(i) Marginal Economics of some of the fields.

(ii) Low reserves of the small fields offered.

(iii) to augment total investment in exploration and development.

(iv) To help augment the oil/gas production by way of quickly putting these fields on production.

(v) For the application of enhanced oil recovery processes.

(vi) To induct the latest managerial and technological practices.

The salient terms and conditions on which exploration blocks and discovered oil & gas fields have been awarded are as under :-

The contracts of exploration blocks are Production Sharing Contracts with a contract period in case of crude oil and associated gas, of upto 25 years. Companies are exempted from payment of bonuses and statutory levies. The Government of India would have the first right of refusal in respect of the oil produced under these contracts, with companies being paid for their share of oil at international prices. Provision for participation by ONGC/OIL in the vent at the exploration and/or the development stage has been made and ONGC/OIL can take a participating interest of 30% to 40% in the venture. Provisions have also been made for the development of commercially exploitable natural gas resources.

The medium-sized fields would be developed through joint ventures between Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGCL)/Oil India Ltd. (OIL) on the one hand and the private companies on the other. ONGC/OIL would take a 40% share in the venture. The small-sized fields would be developed by companies on their own, with no participation by ONGC/OIL, under production sharing contracts to the signed by the companies with the Government of India. In both cases, companies would also be required to bear their share of statutory levies like royalty, cess, etc. Foreign companies involved in oil exploration would be levied income-tax at a fixed rate of 50% while Indian companies would be governed by the relevant provisions of the Income-Tax. In addition private companies would share profit oil with the Government.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Employment Policies

31. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to involve States in framing the employment policies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has prepared a draft proposal for implementation during 9th Five Year Plan in this regard;

(d) the details regarding the formation and implementation of the programme regarding unemployment;